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LETTER DATED 13 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am disturbed to report that the siege of the town of Srebrenica is now well into its fourth day and has intensified, putting the town's civilian population of 70,000 ever closer to catastrophe.

Sarajevo came under heavy shelling from aggressor forces, which resulted in numerous deaths and many more injuries. Furthermore, Serbian and Montenegrin forces shelled Butmir Airport and blocked an UNPROFOR controlled road, which is used for transport to and from the airport. These attacks and the blockade of the airport road were carried out deliberately to hamper and prevent members of the Parliament of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina from convening to consider developments at the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (ICFY).

We reiterate that these actions severely frustrate the efforts of those pursuing peace at the ICFY. Further addressing these concerns, I have the honour to present an attached letter from our delegation to Your Excellency.

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating this letter and its attachment as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

Annex

Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation

New York

13 March 1993

For the fourth day in a row, Serbian and Montenegrin forces have surrounded the town of Srebrenica, employing heavy artillery and 50 tanks from the Republic of Serbia. These besieging forces are endangering the lives of the 70,000 residents and refugees in the area. The aggressor forces are determined to take Srebrenica and overrun the civilian population.

Since this morning, Serbian and Montenegrin forces have shelled Sarajevo from all sides. Scores have been killed and injured, particularly in the Stari Grad ("Old Town") section of the city.

This morning, 13 March 1993, the aggressor forces launched rocket and grenade attacks against Butmir Airport. These attacks are a concerted effort to prevent representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina from arriving to the airport and holding a session, scheduled for tomorrow, 14 March 1993, that was to consider action with regards to the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. The aggressor forces used infantry, two armoured personnel carriers, and two tanks to make passage impossible of a road, under UNPROFOR jurisdiction, used for transport to and from Butmir Airport. This new blockade is at the same point on the same road where Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic was murdered.

The delegation too reminds the international community that previous negotiations in Lisbon, London and Geneva were all carried out under continuing Serbian and Montenegrin genocide against our Republic's population. Regrettably, it is evident that Serbian and Montenegrin forces have carried these precedents over to the talks here at the United Nations in New York. These most recent acts of hostility are another obvious attempt to prevent the continuation of the peace talks. We therefore ask that the international community take urgent action and the necessary measures to reverse these most recent acts of aggression with the intention of establishing an environment of integrity for the current round of peace talks.

(Signed) Haris SILAJDIC
Head of Delegation

(Signed) Miro LAZOVIC
Member of Delegation

(Signed) Muhamed FILOPOVIC
Member of Delegation

(Signed) Colonel Stjepan SIBER
Member of Delegation

(Signed) Kasim TRNKA
Member of Delegation